

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

In the Claims

Please substitute the following clean copy text for the pending claims of the same number, and cancel claim 19 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer.

AI
DUB

1. (Once Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:
a first port for outputting a signal;
a second port for receiving said signal;
a common area comprising an alignment link for electrically connecting said first port with said second port;
said first port extends directly into said common area from a first area;
said second port extends directly into said common area from a second area;
and
said alignment link comprises a signal buffer for buffering a signal traveling along said alignment link between said first port and said second port.

AI
DUB

17. (Once Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:
a first port for outputting a signal;
a second port for receiving said signal;
a common area comprising an alignment means for electrically connecting said first port with said second port;
said first port extends directly into said common area from a first area; and
said second port extends directly into said common area from a second area.